

Kenneth graduated in 2000 from Switzerland County High School in southeastern Indiana. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Army, happy at the prospect of serving his country. As a member of the 82nd Airborne division from Fort Bragg, NC, Kenneth served in Afghanistan and Iraq. His exemplary service earned him an assignment in military intelligence at Fort Lewis, WA. Kenneth, however, preferred working in the field to an office and requested to transfer back to infantry.

Joining a Stryker Brigade Combat Unit at Fort Lewis, Kenneth returned to Iraq for his third deployment. Kenneth was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He will be remembered by his friends and family for his clever sense of humor, his love of hunting and target shooting, his outgoing nature, and above all, his outstanding dedication to his country. Kenneth is survived by his father, SSG Charles Booker; his mother, Becky Graham; and his brother, Kaleb Daniel Booker.

Today, I join Kenneth's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Kenneth. Today and always, Kenneth will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Kenneth's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Kenneth's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SGT Kenneth Raymond Booker in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Kenneth's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Kenneth.

#### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of the National Bible Association and the most influential force ever known to mankind, the Holy Bible.

Each day, about 168,000 Bibles are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States. November 18 through 25 was National Bible Week, which, along with the National Bible Association, I hope increased that exposure to help spread the Good News contained within its pages.

The timing of National Bible Week couldn't be more appropriate since it encompasses the Thanksgiving Holiday. As you know, Thanksgiving commemorates the story and the plight of the Pilgrims, who fled to the New World to escape religious persecution and joined with their new neighbors to give thanks for offering their friendly aid and for coming to their rescue in a dire time of need. Like the Pilgrims, the Bible recounts numerous cases of religious persecution of the children of Israel and the extreme hardships suffered by many over thousands of years. But the Bible also gives us hope, and the comfort of knowing God will help us to persevere and endure.

The theme of neighborly assistance and thanks, as well as the many other valuable and moral lessons or guidance for treating one's neighbor and fellow man, are imparted in the Bible and even served as a moral compass to our Founding Fathers. The Judeo-Christian Bible became the cornerstone of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

As we now find ourselves in the midst of the Christmas season, National Bible Week should serve as an important reminder to always turn to the Bible, recognize its wisdom and Divinely inspired words, and reflect on its meaning in our own lives, especially in how we interact with and treat our neighbors.

Beyond serving as a personal moral compass on how to become a better person and neighbor, the Bible reassures us of God's infinite love for His creation. I encourage you to pick up and read the Bible and become awed by the history, lessons, and adventures found within its pages. As we celebrate National Bible Week, let us share the positive message of the Holy Bible with our families, friends, and neighbors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING JUDGE CLYDE MIDDLETON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to recognize a dear friend and one of Kentucky's most distinguished citizens, Judge Clyde Middleton, on his 80th birthday.

Born January 30, 1928, Judge Middleton achieved a commendable record of public service to Kenton County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A

graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a retired Navy captain, he later earned an MBA from my alma mater, Xavier University, and a juris doctor from Chase College of Law in northern Kentucky. Judge Middleton served with distinction as a Kentucky State senator and judge executive of Kenton County, and still today is very active in his community. He and his wonderful wife Mary are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Mr. President, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Clyde Middleton to his community, and ask you to join me in honoring him on his birthday.●

#### REMEMBERING SALLY L. SMITH

• Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on December 1, America lost a great and innovative educator and a wonderfully decent human being when Sally Smith passed away this week at the age of 78. Sally was the founder and director of one of America's most important teaching institutions, the Lab School in Washington, DC.

Sally was a New York City native, and longtime resident of the District. She graduated in 1950 from Bennington College, and received a master's degree in education from New York University in 1955. In 1967, inspired by her own son's difficulties in learning, she founded the Lab School.

Beginning with just her son and three other students, the Lab School has now grown into an internationally renowned school for students with learning disabilities. Sally's fundamental belief was that all children, no matter what the disability, have the potential, ability and ingenuity to learn. Sally created a unique and innovative learning environment where students are given the tools and encouragement needed to fulfill their goals. She also provided through the Lab School the resources needed for others to teach students with disabilities.

In 1976, Sally became a professor at the School of Education at American University, where she ran the master's degree program specializing in learning disabilities. The Lab School serves as the primary training site for most graduate students in the program. Sally is the author of 10 books on education. Her teaching techniques have been showcased in a four film series on PBS.

My wife Lilibet and I are privileged to have been actively involved with the Lab School over the last 11 years, and we came to know and admire Sally. She was an American original and represented the best of our society.

Like all of Sally's many friends, Lilibet and I offer our prayers to the Smith family. She leaves the world a better place than she found it. She will be missed by that world.

Sally is survived by her sons, Randall, Nick and Gary Smith; a sister; and one granddaughter.●